WCGS News

Volume XI, No. 8 August 2000

From our mailbox:

News you can use....

Shirleyan Beacham Phelps
Editor

Margaret M. Hoffman, noted author, will speak on North Carolina Land Records (over a period of 300 years) at the 14th November 2000 meeting of Martin County Genealogical Society. The meeting will be held at Martin Memorial Library, Williamston and MCGS needs to know if you plan to attend. Contact them at 252-792-5824 (Barbara Revels) or by e-mail: shepjr@coastalnet.com (Jennifer Sheppard).

The Friends of Joyner Library Annual Banquet is scheduled for 5th October 2000, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Room of Mendenhall Student Center, ECU, Greenville. Dorothy Spruill Redford, site manager at Somerset Place, Creswell, will speak on the "Importance of tracing and documenting family history." Information about invitations and tickets can be had by contacting Cari Lovins at 252-328-4090 or e-mail at lovinsc@mail.ecu.edu.

Vernon Everett advises there was an error in last

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Jackson Reunion

On Sunday, July 16, about 87 descendants of George Washington Jackson, Jr., Alfred Jackson, and Benjamin Franklin Jackson, (sons of George W. Jackson, Sr.) gathered at the home of Hughes and Mona Boyd on Long Ridge Road, Plymouth, for the Jackson Family reunion.

Those attending the reunion enjoyed a catered southern-style dinner served in the yard under shade trees. During the afternoon, family groups remembered their ancestors and the good old days and posed for photographs.

The last family reunion, the first in more than 20 years, was held in 1996. This year's reunion was coordinated by the Boyds. They are also working to put in place a historical marker for the village of Hoke, purchased as a part of the Washington County Bicentennial Committee project.

Cheryl Odom White has worked to compile much family genealogy. Descendants of George, Jr., in attendance included Irene Boyd Waters, oldest living grandchild; Carisa Brantley Hicks, oldest of the sixth generation (who is expecting the first seventh generation descendant); and Lauren Nicole Waters, who at two was the youngest of sixth generation descendants present. (Info provided by Yvonne B. Waters)

More markers in place

Lee Tom Swain found the ideal location and placed the Long Acre marker down NC 32 near the Beaufort County line. Harrison W. Phelps and James (Jimmy) S. Allen put up the John W. Darden marker on property owned by a Darden descendant, Mary Charlotte Walker, near the intersection of NC 32 South and NC 99. As noted above, Hughes Boyd is working to secure a good location for the Hoke marker.

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month's issue of WCGS News: page two – re 1860 US Census: Elilzabeth Everett was daughter of Jeresiah (and NOT Jeremiah) Everett and Judith Combs. Deciphering handwritten information, new or old, always leaves room for error. My apologies!

We welcomed Patricia Blend back to our membership earlier this year; Patricia has made a contribution to WCGS and shared additional contact info: (8/7/00)

Patricia A. Blend; P. O. Box 568;Lanoka Harbor NJ 08734 ; Researching Slade and Allied Families;

e-mail: WEBBLEND@aol.com
(check answer before publishing)

Our September Meeting

We hope a large number of folks turn out for our September meeting. On Sunday, 17th September at 2:30 p.m., we will hear the Honorable Timothy L. Spear, Clerk of Superior Court. We look forward, as always, to hearing him.

The August Journal

This month's newsletter is short so as to be included with the distribution of the Summer Journal. At our July work session of officers and directors, it was agreed we should make available to all our members those Bible records which have been posted on the Internet. Volume 8, No. 2 includes surveys of two Washington County cemeteries and several Bible records, one each of which relates to the aforementioned Jackson family.

The journal also includes a disclaimer advising researchers to check original sources for documentation.

WCGS News, etc.

There are a lot of folks doing Washington County research and it would be great to have more of them as members of WCGS and as regular contributors to our publications.

Last month, we advised readers to watch for a sale: All census records published by WCGS, formerly priced at $15 each, are $10; Washington County, NC Marriages Vol. 1 is now $10 and the WPA Cemetery Survey is available for half-price: $2.50 and Taxable Property – Washington County – 1815 is now $2.50. These prices are good until our present inventory is depleted. Shipping and handling charges remain the same.

Note: Next year, there will be twelve issues of the newsletter and two editions of the journal.

Believe it or not...

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors which would get slippery in the winter when wet. So they spread thresh on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed at the entry way, hence a "threshold." (GenealogyWeek / AntiqueWeek, 13 December 1999; pg. 32)

LAST BUT NOT LEAST:

A special thank-you to our friends in Tyrrell County – those of us who attended the joint meeting with Tyrrell County Genealogical and Historical Society last month enjoyed the program. Our hosts provided a special treat with a bountiful table laden with good food! Thanks to Betty Morris, president, and the members who were so gracious in their welcome.

WCGS Officers:

Shirleyan Beacham Phelps, President & Editor, WCGS News (shirleyanphelps@sprintmail.com)

Carolyn Spruill Phelps, Vice President (carolsphelps@coastalnet.com)

Barbara Modlin Revels, Recording Secretary/Treasurer

& Chairman, Board of Directors - WCGS

Lawrence Swain, Corresponding Secretary

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A Publication of

WASHINGTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 567 – PLYMOUTH NC 27962

WCGS NEWS

Volume XI, No. 9 September 2000

From our mailbox:

News you can use –
Shirleyan Beacham Phelps WCGS President - Editor

From the R. S. Newbury Family, Livermore, CA: Dear Friends B Just a note about the April Quarterly B there is an error in the name of the wife of Joseph Newbury, page 14 B should be Eliza ELDER Newberry (not Eller).

From: Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society (http://www.OBCGS.com) is hosting a Genealogy Fair, 28th October 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Asheville Mall, 3 South Tunnel Road, Asheville. For more info, e-mail them at OBCGS@buncombe.main.nc.us or call 828-253-1894. They are also announcing that Old Buncombe County Heritage B Volume I is back in print in limited quantity.

From Georgia: As I look at the Doppler Radar at WITN-TV this morning, you in Eastern Carolina are having general rain today. Looks as though I hit the jackpot with the WCGS Summer Journal. I refer you to page 56 and "Marriages". Absolon William Spruill and Nancy Jane Davenport married on 17th day of August 1865 . They are my great-grandparents. I personally remember

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10,000 Year Calendar

If you have ever been given a newspaper clipping of an obituary on which someone has written the date the newspaper was published, but the obituary text reads something like, :died Thursday morning at her home:, you will want to bookmark the 10,000 year calendar on your computer. You give the month and year you want and a calendar is displayed. From the calendar you can also find other history for that date. Website is: http://www.calendarhome.com/tyc/ (AntiqueWeek, GenealogyNews, 24 August 2000)

Remember

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Doctrine Ira Davenport purchased a farm near Cherry community in Washington County and a portion of the purchase has remained in his family ever since. *See page 2*

New & Renewing Members

Ruby R. Furlough becomes our first member to renew for the year 2001! Thanks. Ruby is researching Ambrose, McGowan, Davenport and Furlough and can be reached at 252 Coventry Rd., Virginia Beach VA 23462 or at rfurloug@irt.net

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several of their listed children. Sarah Virginia Spruill born March 20, 1875 lived in the Scuppernong community and was my grandmother. She was married to my grandfather Dave Arnold. I knew several of her brothers and sisters. John Wilson Spruill born Nov. 19, 1881 was my "Uncle John" who lived with his wife Virginia in the fork of the road just a few hundred yards North of Scuppernong Church. They had a daughter Minnie Spruill (deceased). Celia Etta Spruill, who I knew as "Aunt Etta" was born Nov. 14, 1879. She lived in the community of Great Bridge, Va. which was near the Dismal Swamp and the Dismal Swamp Canal. Her two sons worked at the Ford assembly plant in Norfolk. Her daughter Nancy was going steady with a Lt. Commander Ferrell who was stationed on the battleship Wyoming. He took us on a tour of the Wyoming at the Norfolk Navy Yard, as well as a tour of the aircraft carrier Yorktown. William Absolon Spruill born Feb. 22, 1884 was the one we would nickname a "Yankee". He lived about all of his life in Cumberland, Maryland, and by East Carolina standards of the 20's and 30's he had a Yankee accent. Note how prolific the name "Nancy Jane" is in my family. My sister was named Nancy Jane Sellers. Would you happen to know if Teresa Kelly, who submitted the Spruill family information has an e-mail address? If not, a regular address will suffice. While I think of it, my sister has a giant silver wine pitcher mounted on a tilting stand that must weigh 10 pounds, and was handed down from my grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Arnold. There is a seal underneath the cradle which states "presented to Jacob Spear at Norfolk, Va. in 1865 for the first bale of cotton to be marketed after the Civil War". I have no idea how the pitcher ended up in the Arnold household, unless it was a hardship sale or something like that. Thanks again for the WCGS Summer Journal. It filled in a lot of gaps about my family tree that I had no information about. Can there be any doubt now as to my allegiance to Washington County? Until next time, I do hope all is well with you and all of yours. Much Love, Uncle Bill. (Wm. Sellers)

A century farm

According to a report in the 30 August edition of the *Roanoke Beacon* (page 7b) "Doctrine Ira Davenport purchased a farm near Cherry community in Washington County and a portion of the purchase has remained in his family ever since. Later, Doctrine 'Doc' Franklin Davenport and his wife, Christine White Davenport, built a home on the farm he inherited and he lived there until his death in 1998. Today, the farm and home are owned by Christine. The farm has been under constant cultivation and is now farmed by Selvie James of Creswell. The farm has recently been designated as a N. C. Century Farm by the N. C. Department of Agriculture." The article accompanied a photo of Christine.

September speaker

Debbie B. Askew of the Washington County Geeographical Information Systems was our speaker in September. Debbie has been with the department for five years and became head of the department when Lionel West retired at the end of June. Debbie's presentation was timely and informative and very professional presented. She provided copies of maps of the county, of the state and gave us mugs with the county seal. She noted her office is a good place to start when researching local properties – here you can get help to trace land transactions. The address is: Washington County GIIS, 120 Adams Street, Plymouth NC 27962. The phone number is 252-793-2662.

Calendar of Events

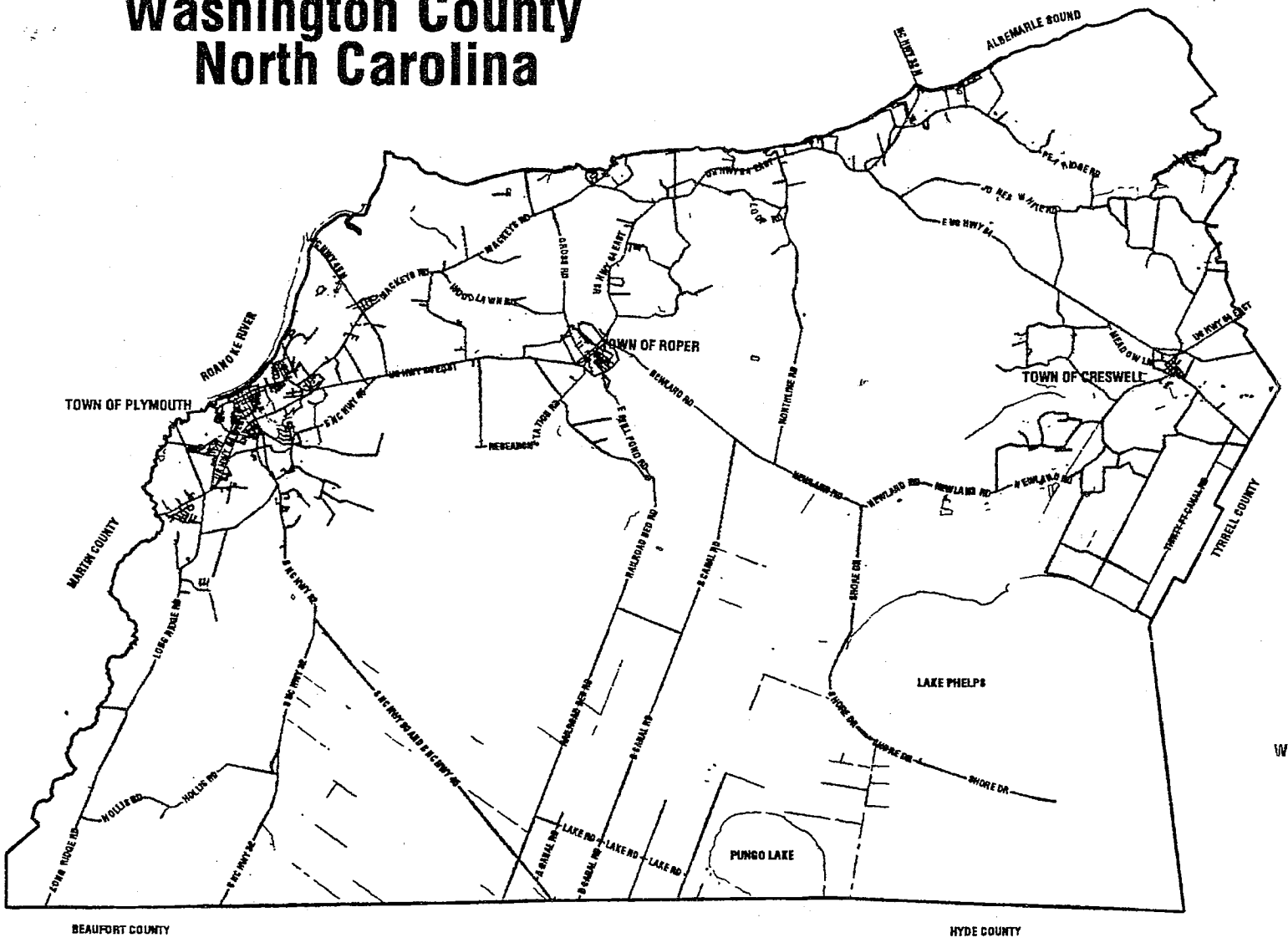
15th October Meeting Place – First OFWB Church – Plymouth Time – 2:30 p.m. Speaker: Betsy B. Modlin and Business: Election of 2001 officers!

19th November Meeting - Place – First OFWB Church – Plymouth Time – 2:30 p.m. Speaker: Lois Krawczyk – "Pea Ridge" – and Annual Seasonal Social – (Thanksgiving & Christmas combined)

December 2000 – No meeting!

TIDBIT: *"...from the husbands of Mrs. Emma W. Pike wife of John Pike, & of Mrs. Fanny Fagan wife of Aaron Fagan, as to their free & voluntary sealing & delivering of a Deed for Land from Chas. Blount, & John Pike & wife Emma, Aaron Fagan & wife Fanny & E. Blount to Thomas Sandersen, to which Deed Thomas Clifton is a Subscribing Witness - Witness Thomas Turner D Clk of Said Court S. Downing the Clerk thereof being dead since the last adjournment and the Clerk having Set given bond and qualified according to Law --- Thos. Turner, D. Clk, 19th Aug 1823 (F. 109 – Register of Deeds, Washington County, NC.)*

Washington County
North Carolina



Map
Washington County Ge
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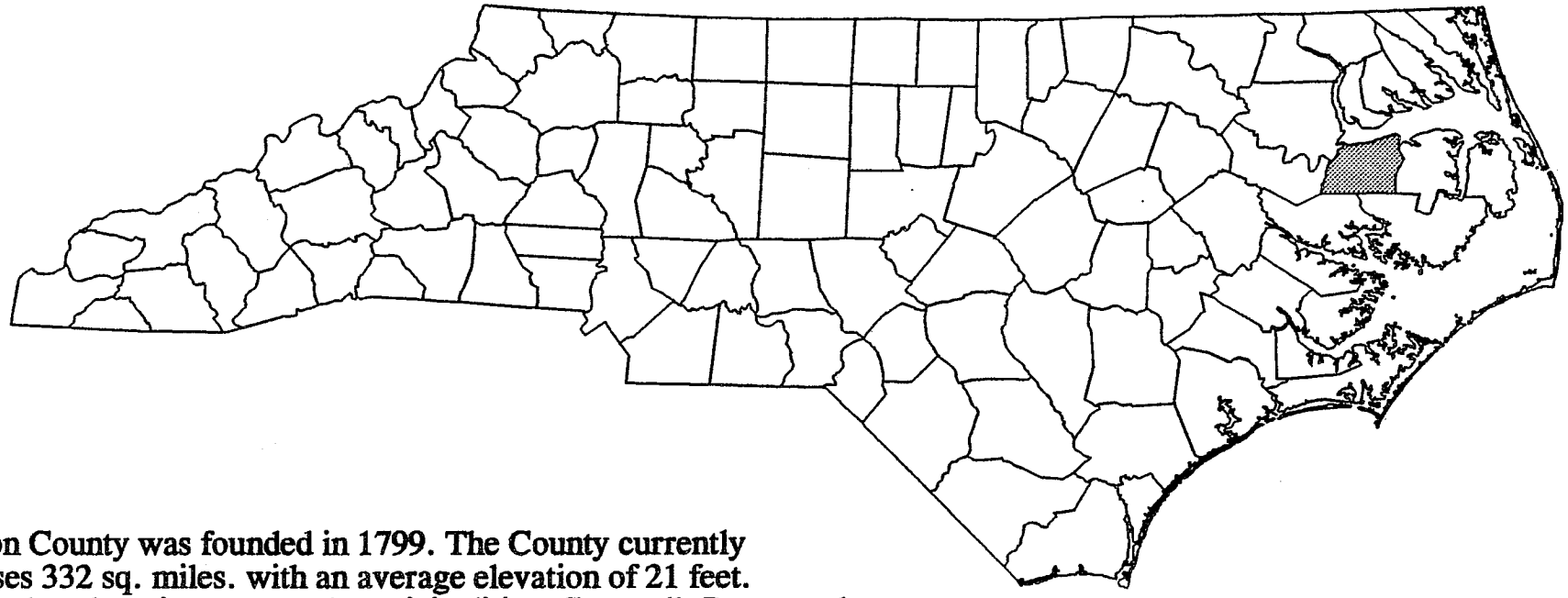
WASHINGTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



Washington County was founded in 1799. The County currently encompasses 332 sq. miles. with an average elevation of 21 feet. The County has three incorporated municipalities, Creswell, Roper and Plymouth. Plymouth is the County Seat. The County population figures in 1990 totaled 13,997. Located approximately 2 hours from Raleigh and 2 hours from the Outer Banks the County offers many choices in outdoor recreational activities. Average temperatures for the area are 75.3 in the summer and 42.3 in the winter with an average annual rainfall of 47.9 inches.

THIS MAP WAS PRODUCED BY THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY GIS DEPARTMENT. DECEMBER 19, 1997